

REMARKS

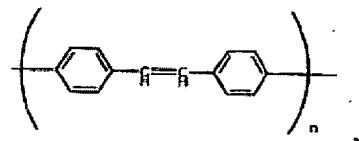
At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated February 16, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 33 are hereby amended. Claims 1, 2 and 33 are currently pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

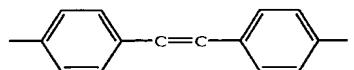
In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 11-140168 to Yamamoto (hereinafter “Yamamoto”) regarding component A species. Claims 1, 2 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,682,783 to Tomioka et al. (hereinafter “Tomioka”) regarding component A species.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 33 as being anticipated by Yamamoto is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner asserts that the polymer shown in formula (IX) on page 7 of Yamamoto, shown below:



is the same component A species of the present invention, as shown below:

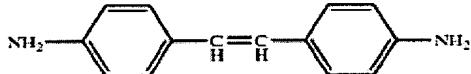


Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 33 to cancel the component from the group of species. Yamamoto does not teach or suggest the other components in the group of species.

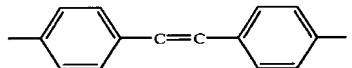
Accordingly, because Yamamoto fails to teach the elements of claims 1 and 33, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2, which depends therefrom, and claim 33 are allowable over Yamamoto.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 33 as being anticipated by Tomioka is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner asserts that Tomioka teaches “a photoalignment material (column 9, lines 45-50) comprising Chemical Formula 3” below:



and that this corresponds to component A species of the present invention, as shown below:



Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 33 to cancel the component from the group of species. Tomioka does not teach or suggest the other components in the group of species.

Accordingly, because Tomioka fails to teach the elements of claims 1 and 33, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2, which depends therefrom, and claim 33 are allowable over Tomioka.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Dated: May 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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